

1	2	3	4
29.	Lakshadweep Islands	—	—
30.	Pondicherry	—	4
TOTAL:		3003	3544

#### Underwater telephone by Keltrol

1088. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an underwater telephone is being produced by Keltrol, based on the indigenous design developed by the Naval Physical and Oceanographic Laboratory;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that these sets will be installed in all major Indian Navy ships in a phased manner;

(c) whether any concrete proposals in this regard have been worked out by the Defence Ministry; and

(d) if so, what are the details of the same?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) The development of Under Water Telephones relates to operational information of the Navy and as such it would not be in the interest of National security to divulge it on the Floor of the House.

#### Optimum utilisation of AFHQ employees in the Ministry of Defence

1089. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of Joint Secretary (E) to recommend implementation of the decision of the Group of Ministers on optimum utilisation of AFHQ employees in the Ministry of Defence;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the aforesaid Committee was to make its recommendations by 30.9.2001;

(c) whether the Committee has since made its recommendations;

(d) if so, the recommendations made and decisions taken by Government thereon; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and anticipated time by which the same are to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Committee's Report could not be finalized due to lack of unanimity amongst members of the Committee. While, the Government has initiated steps to narrow down these differences, given the level of divergence in the respective stands taken by different members of the Committee, it is not possible to specify the time by which the Report will be finalized.

**Report of Court of Enquiry regarding disbursement of salary to fictitious employees**

1090. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Court of Enquiry set up by Government into disbursement of salary in the name of fictitious employees in 505 Army Base Workshop in Delhi Cantt. has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith action taken in this regard;

(c) the details of amount involved in this episode; and

(d) how Government propose to recover the money?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Court of Inquiry has found two Group 'C' Non-Gazetted officials blameworthy for the misappropriation of Government funds/lack of supervision. Disciplinary proceedings against these employees have been initiated.

(c) Total amount disbursed to fictitious employees is Rs. 1,59,983.